



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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DOH CONDUCTS SUICIDE PREVENTION WORKSHOPS

HONOLULU -- The Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH), in partnership with the Suicide Prevention Task Force and Hawai'i S.P.E.A.R. (Suicide Prevention Education Awareness Research) Foundation of America, is conducting suicide prevention workshops statewide. This training is geared to "gatekeepers" or those who may be in contact with troubled individuals who may be considering suicide. Counselors, teachers, social workers, clergy, crisis workers, law enforcement, health workers, and anyone concerned about family members and friends are invited.

The two-day suicide prevention training, called Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST), prepares individuals to recognize and respond to those in crisis. Workshop participants learn to use a suicide intervention model, thus reducing the suicide risk. The workshop also covers information to link people with community resources.

Suicide continues to be an urgent public health issue in Hawai'i:

- Suicide is the second leading cause of injury death in Hawai'i.
- Hawai'i loses 120 lives to this tragedy each year (about one every three days), and another 870 are hospitalized after attempting to take their own lives.
- Nationally, over 30,000 people take their lives every year.

(more)

Scheduled A.S.I.S.T. workshops will be held on the following days:

Kaua'i, January 31 – February 1

Big Island, February 28-29 (Hilo); and June 26-27 (Kona)

Moloka'i, March 6-7 and May 8-9

Maui, March 19-20 (Kahului) and June 19-20 (Lahaina)

O'ahu, April 24-25 and May 29-30

Participants must register and pay in advance and commit two full days (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) for the workshops. For registration, cost information and meeting locations, call 734-9211 (Kapi'olani Community College). This information will also be posted under the health events on the DOH Injury Prevention website at www.hawaii.gov/health.

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